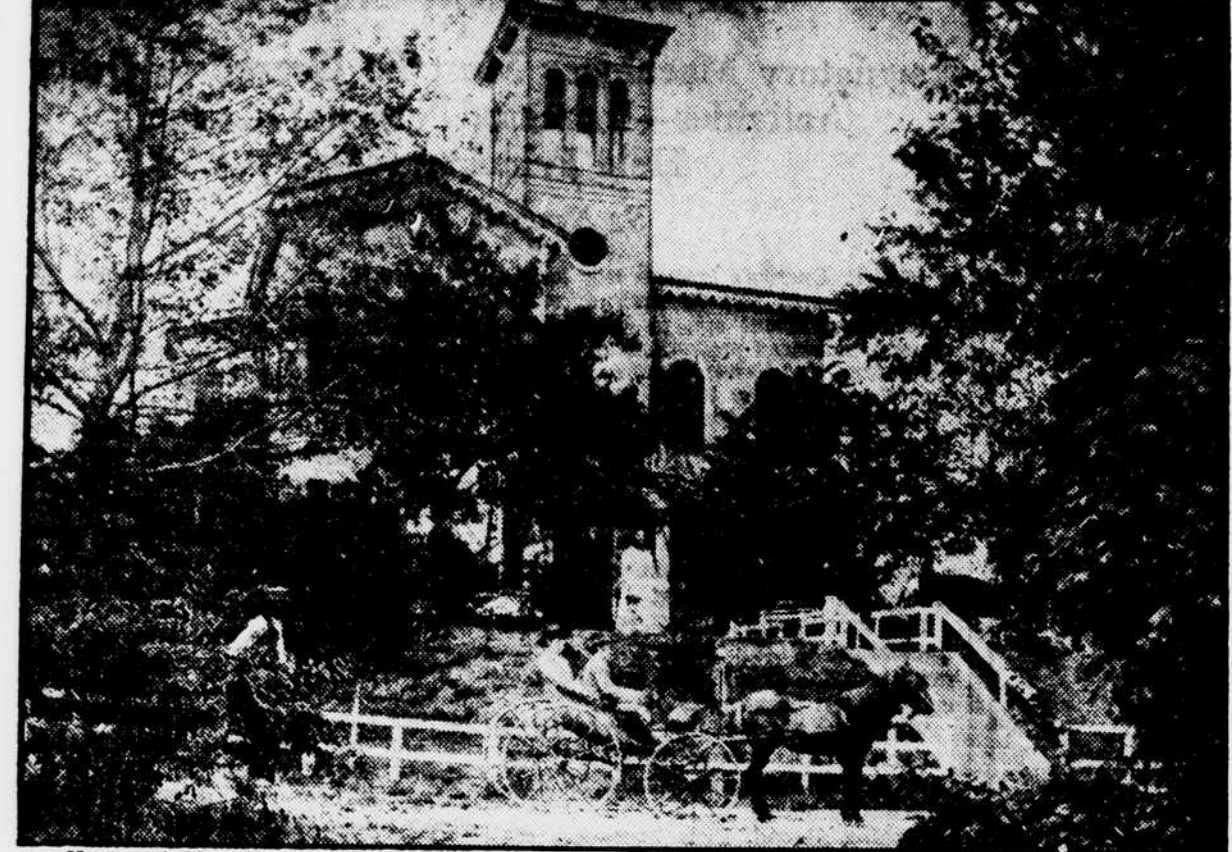


Historic Estates Once Dotted Boundary Street, Now Florida Avenue



Home of Christian G. Schneider, built in 1864 located on ground at the extreme west of Garfield Hospital. Mrs. Schneider is in the doorway and her daughter Ella and son Walter in the buggy.

FAMED KALORAMA WAS INCLUDED

Initial Use Was as Route Between Georgetown and Bladensburg, With Half of It Laid Out Before District Came Into Existence; Homes of Nourse, Stone and Schneider Families in Area

By John Claggett Proctor.

Florida avenue—known as Boundary street for upward of a century before it received its present name—is one of Washington's oldest and longest thoroughfares, originally extending from Rock Creek on the west, to Fifteenth street on the east, and today, except for a few blocks, it still continues to extend over its entire original length. And of all the streets and avenues of the city as planned by Maj. L'Enfant, it is probably the oldest, since one-half of it, at least, served as a public road years before the District of Columbia came into existence.

But the Government moved its offices here in 1800, this street was known as the Georgetown-Bladensburg road, forming as it did, one of the two main routes to Bladensburg, the Florida avenue route crossing Rock Creek at P street and continuing eastward at least as far as Seventh street northwest, crossing Reedy Branch at Eighth street, which was a fairly large open stream crossed by a hand bridge until about 1874, when it was turned into a sewer.

It will be observed that the land rises considerably to the north of Florida avenue for much of its length and this made the ground attractive to those who could afford a country estate close to the business center of the city, and so we find, at a very early date, Anthony Holmead building a home for himself in what is now the 2300 block of S street. Holmead was an Englishman, or perhaps, more strictly speaking, of English ancestry, and one of the original proprietors of land selected for the Federal Capital. It was he who erected the original house on a commanding eminence at Kalorama and called the estate Rock Hill.

This tract, early known as Widow's Mite, was granted in 1668 to John Langworth. It then contained some 600 acres and the part south of Florida avenue and within the city lines was later given the name of "James His Park," the name under which it was held by Holmead when he agreed with the other proprietors to transfer, under certain conditions, their lands to the Federal Government.

In 1794 or 1795 Holmead sold the mansion house and about 40 acres of land to Gustavus Scott, who had been made one of the commissioners to superintend the erection of the public buildings here. His career was an honorable one. He was a distinguished lawyer, and during the period of the American Revolution rendered valuable service to the cause of independence. He was a member of the Association of the Freeborn of Maryland, which decided in July, 1775, to throw off the proprietary power and assume provisional government. Later, he assisted in framing the constitution of Maryland in 1776, and subsequently served in the State Assembly, and in 1784 was sent as a Delegate to the Continental Congress.

Although his political career was as a resident of Maryland, yet his birthplace was in Prince William County, Va., his father having been a Scotch Episcopal clergyman who settled in that State in 1730. Gustavus Scott was appointed a commissioner for the District of Columbia in 1794 and, though it may seem ridiculous, it is nevertheless true that the credit of the government was so low while he was one of the commissioners that his own bond was required from the State of Maryland for money lent to complete the public buildings.

Being the son of a Scotchman he naturally inherited some of his father's Scotch thrift, and as evidence of this he is said to have adapted to his own use as a kitchen door step the rejected keystone of the then new K Street Bridge. On this his name was chiseled, but since even stone will wear out this keystone eventually vanished under the tread of many feet.

Although Gustavus Scott was thrifty, yet he was not particularly fortunate in his investments, as we might well judge from a letter dated May 3, 1802, and written by Thomas Jefferson and addressed to Joel Barlow, then residing in Paris. The letter in part reads: "There is a most lovely seat adjoining this city, on a high hill, commanding a most extensive view of the Potomac, now for sale. A suburb house, garden, etc., with 30 or 40 acres of ground. It will be sold under circumstances of distress, and will probably go for the half of what it has cost. It was built by Gustavus Scott, who is dead—a bankrupt." Scott died here in Washington in 1801, most likely at Kalorama.

Barlow was not quick enough and the property was bought in by Col. William Augustine Washington, nephew of the first President, who remodeled the mansion and made additions which added to its utility and attractiveness. However, Col. Washington was not so taken with the place that he felt obliged to

keep it in the face of a good offer, and so in 1807 he sold it to Joel Barlow for \$14,000.

Barlow was a distinguished diplomat and poet, and was glad of the opportunity to purchase Kalorama, where he could entertain, which his means permitted him to do, and it was while living here that he wrote his famous poem "The Columbiad."

After taking possession of the property he made many improvements, acting upon the advice of Labette, the architect, and Robert Fulton, the inventor. Barlow was some say it was during this time that he tried out the model of the Clermont on Rock Creek, nearby. As a matter of fact, there is not the slightest real evidence to prove this statement, although it is undoubtedly true that he did give demonstrations in Rock Creek in 1809 before members of Congress of his inventions of harpooning and torpedo attacks. During Barlow's ownership President Jefferson was a frequent guest, as was afterward President Madison. Noah Webster, one of his schoolmates, also came to visit him here, and in 1824, when Gen. Lafayette visited Washington he participated in his hospitality.

Barlow changed the name of the estate from Rock Hill to Belair, but later on, considering the number of places then bearing that name, he decided upon the name Kalorama, from the Greek, meaning "fine view." From the first Kalorama was spelled with a "C," but the present form has been in use for many years.

In 1801 Barlow was sent as Minister to France in the hope of preserving peace, our country then being apparently on the verge of war with that country, and the premises were leased to M. Serurier, the French Minister. After nine months of diplomacy he was invited by Napoleon, then absent from Paris on his Russian campaign, to meet him on his Russian campaign, where the treaty was signed. Barlow set out for Wilna, but upon reaching this place found the French Army in full retreat on that town from Moscow. Becoming involved in the memoranda of retreat, he was overcome by cold and privation and died in Poland on December 24, 1812. His body was never brought back to this country, although his name appeared on the tomb which stood until 1892, where is now the intersection of Massachusetts and Florida avenues.

What is now Columbia road a



Kalorama mansion, as it was painted by Baron Bodisco, Minister from Russia, in 1840.

hundred years ago was Taylor's

Land road, and to the west of this, where is now the property known as Temple Heights, was the Nourse property, bought by Col. Michael Nourse in 1809. The purchase was made of Anthony Holmead, and the tract included at that time 16 acres.

Col. Nourse evidently erected the original part of the building on Temple Heights, which, no doubt, has had several additions made to it since. Nourse sold the property in 1835 and moved into the city. This was done, we are told, because it took him too long to get to the Treasury Department, where he was chief clerk to his brother. His children were also responsible for his giving up this fine old place, because they claimed it was too far out in the country.

Some years after it was given up by Col. Nourse (probably after the Civil War) it became the property of Thomas P. Morgan, at one time major and superintendent of police, and later Commissioner of the District of Columbia, 1879 to 1883. Maj. Morgan called it Oak Lawn, and added to and improved the building. More recently it became the Dean property and was owned by that estate when it was sold to the Masons.

Surrounding this old homestead are beautiful trees, along which is one in particular which is misnamed the "Treaty Oak," because of a tale that a treaty was once signed beneath its enormous limbs by the white man and the aborigines.

Just to the south of Temple Heights, in the block bounded by Nineteenth, Twentieth, S streets and Florida avenue, was Holmead's Cemetery and not far south of this were Henry Douglas' home and gardens, his florist place being opposite the Treasury.

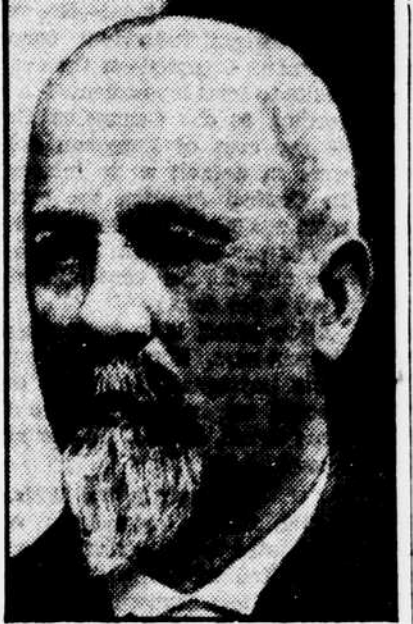
One of the earliest and finest residences erected north of Florida avenue was the home of Commodore David Porter, built upon a tract of land embracing 110 acres and carved out of the large estate of Robert Peter. The purchase was made from Washington Bowie November 18, 1816, and the latter received title from Thomas Peter, executor of Robert Peter, Jr., on November 12, 1811.

Reverses caused Commodore Porter to dispose of his property, and in 1829 the mansion and grounds were leased by John Quincy Adams upon his retiring from the White House. By this time it may be assumed that the property had sub-

stantially passed out of the hands of the commodore, for there was surely no love between him and Mr. Adams, and no apparent reason which would have warranted the former in leasing it to him, especially since the ex-President had upon one occasion, when Lafayette was visiting this city in 1824, deliberately and cruelly snubbed Porter, who, it seems, had enlisted the aid of the marquis in his behalf to try to straighten out a difference between the two men.

Lafayette had been granted an interview with the President, with permission to bring the commodore along, and the latter was to make a personal explanation. The time was set for 12 o'clock, and, true to promise, Mr. Adams was waiting for the French visitor and the commodore; but when they alighted at the door of the Executive Mansion, the President, it is said, "stepped forward and shook hands cordially with the marquis, took his arm and left the commodore standing under the front portico, without taking any notice of him whatever. This gratuitous insult to both Lafayette and Commodore Porter was not explained, nor was the matter referred to while the interview lasted. It would seem as if the President wished to teach the commodore a lesson in diplomacy, or intimate to the Nation's guest that he must not meddle with what did not concern him."

Between Mr. Adams and his suc-



CHRISTIAN G. SCHNEIDER, who erected his residence in the Garfield Hospital grounds, near the Eleventh street side.

cessor, Andrew Jackson, there was also an unfriendly feeling, because the latter believed Adams had countenanced the story directed against the name of his wife. So on the morning of the 3d of March, 1829, Adams left the White House and walked out to the Porter Mansion and caused notices to be published requesting that the usual call

on the retiring President be omitted.

The Porter residence was designed by George Hadfield, and was destroyed by fire about 1863. Its probable location was somewhat to the north of present place, just to the west of Sixteenth.

The Henderson Castle, at Sixteenth street and Florida avenue, is what the old-timer would call a modern building.

Sixty years ago, few buildings were standing along either of Florida avenue, and after leaving Sixteenth street, there were but three homes on the north side, and about an equal number on the south side. On the north side was the residence of William Stone, the engraver, who erected the building at Eleventh and D streets, where The Star was located from 1854 to 1881.

The tract of land to the north of Florida avenue, upon which Mr. Stone erected his residence in 1842, included at one time 150 acres, and here the Stone family resided until 1861, when Mr. Stone built a two-story brick house near the northeast corner of F and Fourteenth streets N.W., into which the family moved, the change being made because of a desire to locate their son, a distinguished physician, in the heart of the downtown section. It will be recalled that it was this physician, who attended President Lincoln when he was removed after his assassination to the house opposite Ford's Theater. He never left Mr. Lincoln's bedside until the President breathed his last.

During the Civil War the Stone residence was taken over by the Army as a hospital in April 1862, and continued as such until July 1, 1865. Some of the first troops to reach Washington after Lincoln's first call for volunteers were encamped on the Stone farm.

After the close of the Civil War the property was bought by a syndicate composed of Senator John Sherman, A. L. Barber, his brother-in-law, Mr. Langdon and Mr. Albright, who in 1865 the Stone mansion was bought by Senator John A. Logan, who moved into it the following year and named it Calumet Place. This tract of land includes the subdivision known as Columbia Heights, and the old Stone residence in the changed order of things, was located on the northeast corner of Thirteenth and Clifton streets, and here Gen. Logan died December 26, 1886. The site is now occupied by an apartment house. The Central High School is located on a part of the Stone property.

Adjoining the Stone estate, on the east side, was the home of Christian G. Schneider, one of the city's early bell-hangers, whose business for many years was conducted at 1207 F street. During the writer's youthful days his parents resided in the same neighborhood with the Schneider family, whose property then consisted of a number of acres. Besides Mr. and Mrs. Schneider there were children in the family, including Louis H., Julius M., Carrie A., Ella, George A., and Walter E.

All of these members of a prosperous, happy family have now passed on except Miss Carrie Schneider, who, undoubtedly for purely old friendship sake, has loaned the writer the picture of her early home for reproduction in The Star. Indeed, this dear old home must mean much to her, especially around this season of the year, as it certainly does to others who recall it many years ago.

The Garfield Hospital property includes not only the Christian Schneider estate, but also the property owned by his brother, Louis H. Schneider, early well-known hardware dealer, located for many years at 1010 and 1012 Pennsylvania avenue. The estate of the latter was formerly owned by James Crowlhill Hall, who practiced medicine in this city for 50 years, or up to the time of his death, June 7, 1880. He is said to have been the physician to every President of the United States from Jackson to Lincoln, attended the family of every justice of the Supreme Court through many administrations, as well as numerous Senators, cabinet officers and members of the diplomatic corps. Indeed, it seems fortunate that his country estate should have been saved to the public for hospital purposes.

Other families who lived in this neighborhood, and which the writer still recalls, are the Duval, Lynch, Philpitt, Barry, Reichstein, Williams, Braun, Nussbaum and Tyser, who resided to the north of V street. The Res family resided for a time at 2021 Ninth street, later moving across the street to 2006. In 1883 the Veinmeyer family was on the same street, at No. 2017, their next-door neighbor being Frederick W. Koss, pharmacist, whose place of business was at the northwest corner of Florida and Georgia avenues, on the site of the Cross Keys Tavern.

Prior to this site being occupied by Dr. Koss, here was the drugstore of Heller & Hodgkins, then of Hodgkins alone. Following the death of F. W. Koss, during the 80s, the business was continued by Edward H. Koss, who later married his brother's widow.

PROPHECIES OF 1914 WOULD COVER A QUARTER CENTURY

None Could Have Had Vision of Events War Started

By Herbert Hollander.

New Year! What will 1939 bring forth? That is a question uppermost in the minds of all. And in the absence of any device to forecast the future accurately, there is no answer now.

But instead of attempting futilely to read the future, let us turn back the pages of history exactly 25 years, when we were bidding adieu to the old year 1913 and were enthusiastically toasting in the infant 1914.

What a year 1914 was to be! A year, it is certain, which forever will remain fixed in the memory of mankind, marking the beginning of an entirely new era; in many respects a catastrophic year, and yet a year which was not without its bright and joyful spots that many will remember with nostalgic longing.

Then as now, New Year celebrations could not foresee what the ensuing twelve months were to bring. Yet today we are far better prepared, by the lessons of the intervening 25 years, for any eventuality. On January 1, 1914, few, if any, could foresee that earth-shaking events were just ahead.

None could have an inkling, amid the gay popping of corks and blowing of horns and throwing of confetti, that on a bright June day six months hence an Austrian archduke and his wife would be murdered in a far-off Bosnian town; that a month later a World War was to begin; and that 25 years after America and every other nation and people would still be feeling the effects of that conflict, which was to change not only the map but the whole way of life in the world.

There had been difficulties in Europe, to be sure. But few Americans paid any attention to Europe 25 years ago. Besides, how could that possibly affect us? And, anyway, why think about such things on New Year Day? So the Balkans, Pan-Slavism, "Drang Nach Osten," Kaiser Wilhelm's inflammatory speeches—these were far indeed from the minds of Americans, as they celebrated the coming of the new year on the night of December 31, 1913.

Yet a brief seven months after the lighthearted New Year celebration, 1914 was to bring the cataclysm from which the world still reels.

But, of course, 1914 brought more than war. It brought many other events, some important, some not so important, some tragic, some happy. And for most Americans, 1914 seemed to be a year not vastly different from many that had gone before. Even after the war began, many months were to elapse before Americans saw it as it was to affect this country.

The chronicle of 1914 ranges from the beginning of the World War to such happenings as the birth of the smallest of all colts in Kansas, weighing just 16 pounds, and the story of a patient in Columbus, Ohio, who went to the operating table for the removal of two appendices.

In 1914 the Panama Canal was to be opened to the commerce of the world, and a great man, Pope Pius X, was to die. In 1914, too, Orville Wright was to demonstrate his new invention, the automatic stabilizer for airplanes, and Mrs. Wood-



HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS—This picture was made in 1914. How the world has changed in 25 years!

row Wilson, wife of the President, was to pass away.

Literally a new lease on life was to be given Lt. Charles Becker, the New York police officer who was the central figure in one of the most famous murder cases in American history. In 1914 he was granted a new trial; eventually he was to go to the electric chair. But Becker's, the notorious "Gyp the Blood," "Whitely Lewis," "Lefty Louie" and "Dago Frank," were to go to the chair on schedule, despite a sensational attempt to delay the execution by the smashing of a dynamite at Sing Sing Prison.

Early in the year ground was to be broken in Washington for a great memorial to Abraham Lincoln—and many who protested against the design were later to admire its beauty in its perfect setting in Potomac Park.

It was to be a big year on the stage and in the rapidly growing motion picture industry. In the movies, John and Lionel Barrymore, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, George Beban, Marie Dressler, Hobart Bosworth, Murdock MacQuarrie, Charlie Chaplin, King Baggott, Maurice Costello, Francis X. Bushman, Beverly Bayne, John Bunny, Florence Lawrence, Broncho Billy Anderson were among those who were to add to their fame and to the steadily climbing popularity of the films.

One notes a newspaper account which marvels that "510,000 some-

times is spent on one of these five-reel super-productions."

And what were to be some of the "colossal" pictures of the new year, 25 years ago? Well, there were "Hearts of Oak," "Mrs. Black Is Back," "The Little Angel of Canyon Creek," "The Man Behind the Door," "The Painted World," "Valley of the Moon," "Call of the North," and many more. Truly, movies were catching on, and in 1914 they were to add mightily to their prestige when the great David Belasco began filming some of his stage successes, beginning with "Rose of the Rancho," which he made in collaboration with Jesse Lasky, then as now a leading figure in

the production side of the movies. The stage was to be in the height of glory in 1914. New York saw nearly 150 productions, and "the road" was thriving. Every city and town was to get a full share of theatrical treats; and the stalwarts of the theater saw the movies as a cloud even smaller than a man's hand. However, while the theater hit a high point in number of productions in 1914, the year as a whole was to be less successful from a financial standpoint.

One reason was the great number of productions, the large number of new playhouses, and as one commentator dolefully remarked, "the encroachment of screen shows cannot be overlooked."

But a glance at the list of productions, which would grace the boards in 1914 will make the theatergoer's heart skip a beat. For this was the year when Willard Mack's "Kick In," one of the best of all crook melodramas, was to make its bow, with John Barrymore, Jane Grey and Forrest Winant in the leading roles. Then Marie Tempest would bring over a play called "Mary Goes First," and George Bernard Shaw's play, "Pygmalion," was to have its first American showing, with Philip Merivale and Mrs. Patrick Campbell in the distinguished cast.

C. Aubrey Smith, now a grand fixture in American movies, would head the cast of a play called "Evidence," which opened in this country instead of England because of the war. And in 1914 Willard Mack was to have another play, "So Much for So Much," in which he himself acted, supported by Marjorie Rambeau. Great popularity was to mark a farce called "Twin Beds," with Madge Kennedy, Ray Cox and Charles Judels. Still another play which would win fame was "It Pays to Advertise," with Grant Mitchell, John W. Cope, Ruth Shepley, Will Deming and Louise Drew.

A high light of the season was to be Belasco's presentation of Leo Dietrichstein in Molnar's "The Phantom Rival," with Laura Hope Crews and Malcolm Williams. "The Outcast" was to be the name of the play in which Elsie Ferguson would

appear in 1914, and Lew Fields—of Weber and Fields—was to do a show called "The High Cost of Living." Chauncey Olcott was to do Rachel Crother's "The Heart of Paddy Whack"; Holbrook Blinn would delight capacity audiences in a series of one-act plays; Maude Adams was destined to great success in "The Legend of Leonora," while Florence Reed would add luster of her name in the sensational "Yellow Ticket."

Little groups of serious thinkers were to raise an outcry against "the debasing of public taste by the tango and the cinema," and to demand a return to the sedate and ordered glories of the Victorian age.

In 1914 motor cars were to become more numerous, but they still were considered luxuries and a few thousand miles was all anybody expected to get out of a tire—and not that without plenty of punctures and blowouts. Too, most of the country's roads were still deep in the mud, and it was to be several years before the Federal Aid Road Act would start a modern highway building program. On city streets and country lanes, the horse and carriage were still the most familiar sight.

The little red schoolhouse was still to hold its place 25 years ago, and many a youthful father who today takes his youngster to school by automobile trudged several miles to class himself, winter and summer, just as children had done for hundreds of years before.

Mexico was to loom large in the events of 1914, and the names of Carranza, Huerta, Madero, Villa, and Zapata would become familiar to every newspaper reader. But there was to be more public interest, really, in the fact that Secretary Joseph Daniels was to ban the use of alcoholic beverages in the United States Navy, and that the Boston Braves were to beat the hitherto invincible Philadelphia Athletics four games straight in the World Series, after coming from behind in their own league in one of the most sensational "stretch" dashes in the history of baseball.

That World Series of 1914 was to make history. The Braves num-

bered among their stalwarts Moran, Mann, Evers, Connolly, Cather, Whitely, Schmidt, Gowdy, Maranville, Deal, Rudolph, James, Tyler, Devore and Gilbert. The Athletics, who long had been unbeatable, had in their lineup Murphy, Oldring, Collins, Baker, McInnis, Strunk, Walsh, Barry, Schang, Lapp, Bender, Wyckoff, Plank, Bush, Shawkey and Fenwick.

Twenty-five years ago the newspapers would carry a story about a farmer in Nashville, Tenn., who displayed a sweet potato weighing 4 pounds, and in Elizabeth, N. J., an apple tree would have a second crop of blooms in October, owing it would be thought, to the dumping of manure in an illicit distillery on the ground near the tree.

President Wilson was to issue his neutrality proclamation, the Germans were to overrun Belgium and Northern France, only to be stopped at the Marne; clergymen were to denounce the new feminine fashions, well-dressed men would wear cloth-topped button shoes and high "chockers," the boys at the bar in the corner saloon would say "they won't ever be able to put over prohibition," and Battling Levinsky would hand a defeat to Jim Flynn in 10 rounds.

And by the way, 1914 was to be a great boxing year, with fighters as Carl Morris, Johnny Kilbane, Joe Humphries, Jack Britton, Mike Gibbons, Sam Langford, Frankie Madson, Leach Cross, Young Ahearn, Willie Ritchie, Jim Coffey, Gunboat Smith, Joe Jeannette, Freddie Welsh, Harry Wills, Charlie Weinert and Sam McVey in the spotlight. And on June 27 one of the greatest boxers of all time, Jack Johnson, was to defeat Frank Moran in a 70-round battle in Paris.

In 1914 the newspapers would be full of the great Colorado coal mine strike, which had begun in 1913 and continued for many months at great loss of life and property. At a Federal inquiry John D. Rockefeller, Jr., would say that the company would "spend the last dollar" rather than recognize the union, and the United Mine Workers of America would spend \$1,000,000 in the epochal struggle.

The war was to affect the publi-

New Age Was to Be Begun With Days of Marvels

cation of books because of the uncertainties of the future and the falling off of importations. One critic was to remark disconsolately that "fiction in 1914, in contrast to the years previous, was mediocre. Several books on dancing reflected the popular craze; while feminism and drama continued to inspire the book makers. Toward the end of the year began the flood of war books, which threatens soon to inundate us."

And, speaking of dancing, 1914 was to witness an unprecedented popularity for it, and the "extreme" dances, so many said, would be the ruin of the country. Hero and heroine of the dance enthusiasts were Vernon and Irene Castle. There would be much talk, too, of "the new woman," and the suffragists were to become more numerous and outspoken than ever before. But the boys at the bar at the corner saloon also were going to be sure that "they won't ever be able to put over woman suffrage."

The new year was going to see the passage of a piece of bitterly contested legislation, the Clayton Anti-trust Act; Toscanini would repeat his success at the Metropolitan Opera House; in December the Nobel Peace Prize Committee would announce that it had decided not to give any 1914 award, and in reviewing the European situation an editorial writer would say, as the year drew to a close, "It is impossible to leave untouched the subject of the wise policy determined by our forefathers, an adherence to which has kept us thus far from entanglement in European alliances. One cannot view the ghastly struggle now in progress without the thought intruding of our own state of preparedness—not to initiate but to ward off such a catastrophe. The question of the adequacy of our land and water forces demands serious consideration."

But these thoughtful remarks would get less attention 25 years than the report of a Westville, Conn., gentleman who owned a cat which had two noses, two mouths, and three eyes, the two mouths having to be fed. But there was to be mounting revulsion against the German invasion of Belgium and the brutalities inflicted upon the civilian population; and some foresighted men were to see dangerous complications for America arising out of the German use of submarines.

There would be a flicker of interest here at the death of Joseph "Old Joe" Chamberlain, the English statesman whose son Austen was making quite a name for himself, but whose other son, Neville, was working away obscurely in Birmingham. And the death of Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner in Kentucky, and Gen. Dan Sickles in New York would revive memories of the War Between the States.

These things and countless more, great and small, none could foresee—perhaps thankfully—on New Year Day, a quarter of a century ago. Indeed, if by some divine inspiration any one had been given the true gift of clairvoyance it is unlikely that he could have gained more than a corporal's guard to believe his seemingly fantastic prophecies of the record 1914 would write. Now 1939 takes the stage.

How, one wonders, will its story look 25 years hence?